

Promising Practices for Goal One: Ready to Learn
All children in America will start school ready to learn

For Goal One, the National Education Goals Panel focused on state increase in the availability and use of early prenatal care. The Panel recognized the following states for the high percentage (or a substantial increase) of pregnant women receiving prenatal care during their first trimester of pregnancy.

New Hampshire has the highest percentage (90 percent) of pregnant women receiving early prenatal care.

- In 1992 and 1993, New Hampshire established three new prenatal clinics. These clinics are funded by the State Department of Health and Human Services and are located in areas where such services did not exist.
- In 1993, New Hampshire increased Medicaid reimbursement for prenatal and delivery care from \$214 (in 1987) to \$1200. In 1994, the state increased Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women from 75 percent of the federal poverty level to 185 percent.
- Title XXI of New Hampshire's Children's Health Insurance Plan (enacted in 1999) provides maternity benefits for pregnant teens.

In **Rhode Island**, 89 percent of mothers receive prenatal care.

- In 1994, eligible families were given access to health care through a managed health care system called the RIte Care Health System. Rhode Island recently expanded eligibility up to 250 percent of the federal poverty level to uninsured pregnant women and children.
- In addition to medical care, RIte Care provides childbirth education programs, parenting classes, and transportation when needed.

Georgia increased the percentage of mothers receiving prenatal care from 73 percent in 1990 to 86 percent in 1997. In 1994, Medicaid eligibility increased to 185 percent of the poverty level; this helped increase the number of women receiving prenatal care. Public health officers go out into the community to encourage women to seek eligibility for Medicaid.

New Mexico has also increased the number of pregnant women receiving prenatal care, from 57 percent in 1990 to 70 percent in 1997. A number of programs offer health care, including a statewide program funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, New Mexico's Medicaid program, and a federal program allowing the state to provide a period of Medicaid presumptive eligibility for pregnant women.

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